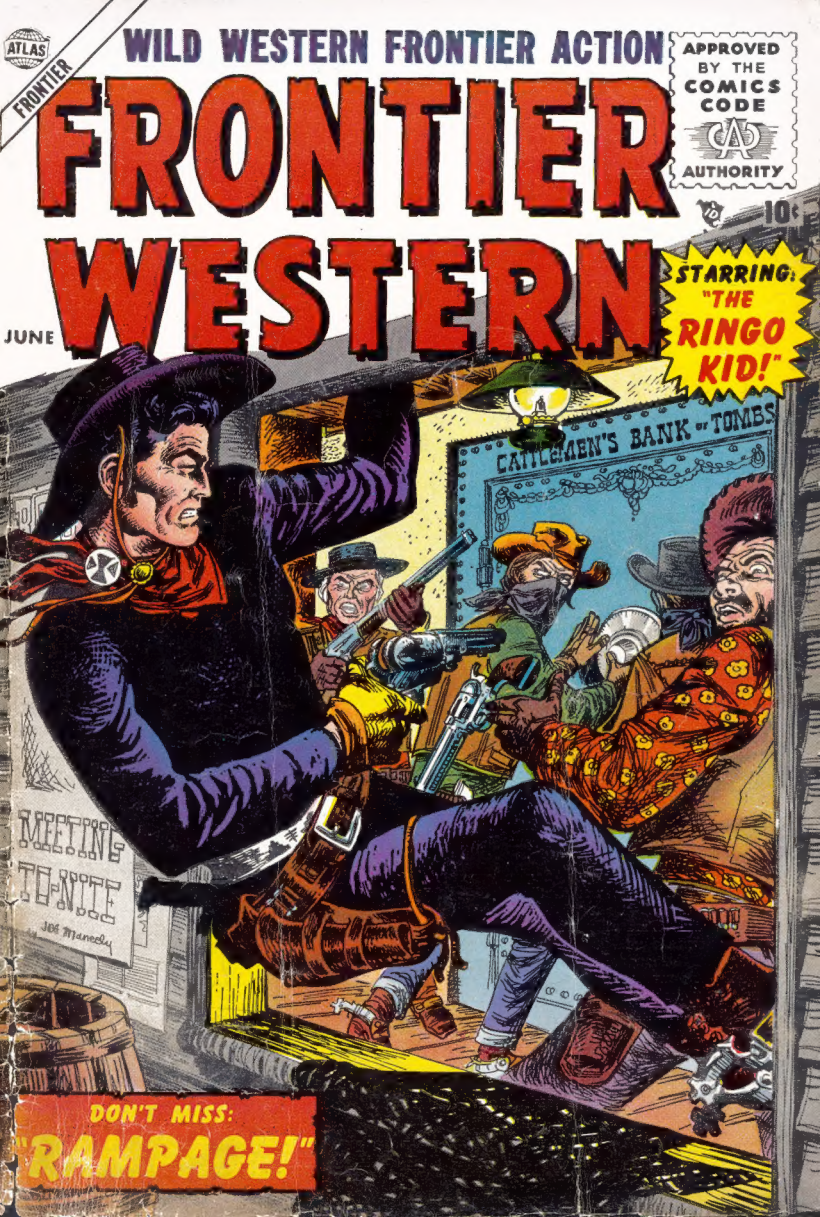
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RINGO KID

THE LOOTERS FROZE UNDER THE GUNS OF THE RINGO KID AND THE DRAWN BOW OF A LITHE REDSKIN! BEFORE A NEW DAY DAWNED, THE RINGO KID WOULD PROVE THAT... "LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE!"

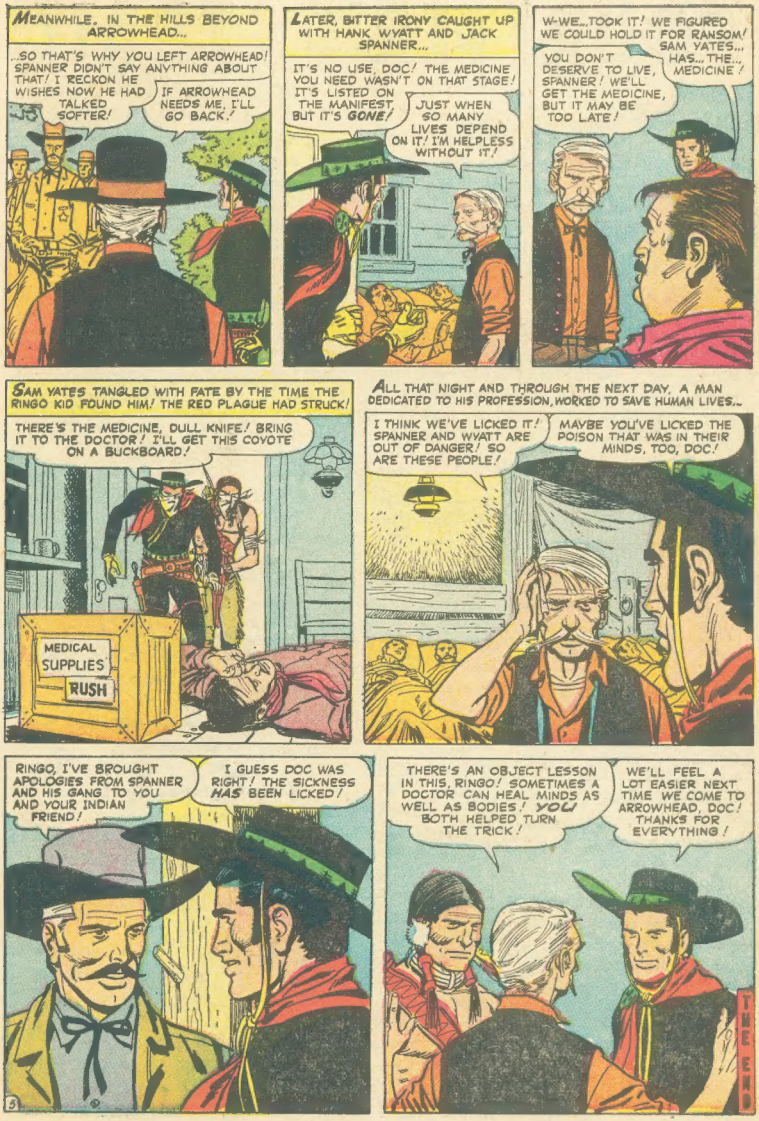
YOU BUZZARDS WILL LEAVE AS HUNGRY AS YOU CAME! HELP THE DRIVER RELOAD THAT STAGE!
WAIT A MINUTE, MISTER! MEBBE WE CAN TALK THIS OVER!

IF YOU WANT A CUT ON THIS LOOT, I'LL MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU!
NO DEALS! THIS STAGE WILL REACH TOWN WITH A FULL MANIFEST OF CARGO! START LOADING!

THANKS, STRANGER! HOG-TIE THESE VARMINTS AND I'LL RUN 'EM INTO ARROWHEAD!
SORRY, AMIGO! I HAVEN'T THE AUTHORITY TO ARREST THEM! KEEP AN EYE ON THEM, DULL KNIFE!
YOU SPOILED OUR PARTY, BUT I RECKON WE'LL MEET AGAIN!
JUST NAME THE TIME AND PLACE! NOW GET ON YOUR HORSES AND JINGLE YOUR SPURS!
THAT'S A LOT OF FOOLISHNESS MISTER! I DON'T SEE NO SENSE IN LETTIN' A RATTLER BITE YOU AN LET HIM WIGGLE AWAY!
LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT! YOU'D BETTER GET ON TO ARROWHEAD!
MEANWHILE...
STAY HERE! I'M GOING BACK TO GET THAT HOMBRE WITH THE QUICK GUNS!
MOMENTS LATER, TWO SHOTS ECHOED THROUGH THE HILLS, AND...
BWHAM! BWHAM!
OHHH...
DULL KNIFE!
L-LEAVE ME! GO AFTER THEM!
NO! THEY'RE PROBABLY GONE BY NOW!
THE SLUG IS LODGED IN YOUR ARM! I'LL HAVE TO GET YOU TO TOWN!
IT WILL GO HARD FOR US BOTH, IF WE ENTER TOWN!
2

TWO HOURS LATER...
MY FRIEND HAS A SLUG LODGED IN HIS ARM, DOC! CAN YOU HELP HIM?
BRING HIM RIGHT IN! TOO MUCH GUN-FIGHTIN' THESE DAYS...
HMMM..: IT ISN'T TOO DEEP! WE'LL HAVE IT OUT IN JIG-TIME!
IT IS MUCH BOTHER, WHITE DOCTOR! I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP!
SUDDENLY...
PUT THEM INSTRUMENTS DOWN, DOC! YOU AIN'T MENDIN' ANY REDSKINS WHILE WE'RE AROUND!
SPANNER, I'LL GIVE YOU TEN SECONDS TO CLEAR OUT AND MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
THESE SCALPERS KILL OUR PEOPLE AN' SACK OUR TOWNS! THEY AIN'T GETTIN' HELP NOW!
YOU LISTEN TO ME, SPANNER! I DIDN'T STUDY MEDICINE TO TREAT WHITE MEN ONLY! I'M A DOCTOR FOR HUMAN BEINGS, UNDERSTAND?
ANOTHER THING, THESE TWO HOMBRES ACTED MIGHTY QUEER DURING A STAGE HOLDUP! THEY LET THE BUSHWHACKIN' VARMINTS GET CLEAR AWAY!
YOU FORGOT TO MENTION THAT WE GOT THE STAGE AND DRIVER TO TOWN INTACT AND MY FRIEND GOT SHOT FOR THE TROUBLE!
NO MORE PALAVER! HAUL YOUR REDSKIN FRIEND OUT!
I CAN'T CLEAN A ROTTEN MIND. BUT I CAN SURE CLEAN HARDWARE FROM DIRTY HANDS!
TWO BIG COLTS ZOOMED FROM THEIR HOLSTERS AND THUNDERED ANGRILY...
YOU'RE LETTIN' THEM OFF EASY!

YOU DID WHAT YOU COULD, DOC! YOU CAN'T FIGHT THEIR KIND OF THINKING! I'M THE RINGO KID... AND I'M HALF INDIAN AND PROUD OF IT!
THERE'S NO ROOM IN ARROWHEAD FOR ME! MEN LIKE YOU ARE HOLDING THIS TERRITORY BACK! I'M LEAVING! WE'LL GET A NEW SAWBONES WHO'LL SEE THINGS OUR WAY!
AS DAWN BROKE THE FOLLOWING DAY...
IT LOOKS BETTER THIS MORNING, DULL KNIFE! HOW DOES IT FEEL?
IT IS STIFF, BUT I FEEL STRENGTH RETURNING!
FOOTSTEPS... A MAN LEADING A HORSE!
STAY HERE! I'LL SCOUT AROUND!
I COULDN'T REST EASY TILL I FOUND YOU! I'VE SHAKEN THE DUST OF ARROWHEAD FROM MY BOOTS FOREVER!
COME JOIN US! TELL US WHAT HAPPENED!
MEANWHILE, A DREAD CRY RESOUNDED THROUGH THE STREETS...
CLEAR OFF THE STREETS! GET THE CHILDREN AND WOMENFOLK OUT OF TOWN! IT'S THE RED PLAGUE!
THE LAST MEN TO SEE DOC FAWCETT WERE WYATT AND SPANNER! AND IT'S THEM WHO ARE DYIN' OF THE PLAGUE!
WE GOT THREE POSSES OUT NOW COMBIN' THE HILLS! IF WE DON'T FIND DOC BY SUNSET...


MEANWHILE.. IN THE HILLS BEYOND ARROWHEAD..
..SO THAT'S WHY YOU LEFT ARROWHEAD! SPANNER DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT! I RECKON HE WISHES NOW HE HAD TALKED SOFTER!
IF ARROWHEAD NEEDS ME, I'LL GO BACK!
LATER, BITTER IRONY CAUGHT UP WITH HANK WYATT AND JACK SPANNER...
IT'S NO USE, DOC! THE MEDICINE YOU NEED WASN'T ON THAT STAGE! IT'S LISTED ON THE MANIFEST, BUT IT'S GONE!
JUST WHEN SO MANY LIVES DEPEND ON IT! I'M HELPLESS WITHOUT IT!
W-WE...TOOK IT! WE FIGURED WE COULD HOLD IT FOR RANSOM! SAM YATES... HAS... THE... MEDICINE!
YOU DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE, SPANNER! WE'LL GET THE MEDICINE, BUT IT MAY BE TOO LATE!
SAM YATES TANGLED WITH FATE BY THE TIME THE RINGO KID FOUND HIM! THE RED PLAGUE HAD STRUCK!
THERE'S THE MEDICINE, DULL KNIFE! BRING IT TO THE DOCTOR! I'LL GET THIS COYOTE ON A BUCKBOARD!
MEDICAL SUPPLIES RUSH
ALL THAT NIGHT AND THROUGH THE NEXT DAY, A MAN DEDICATED TO HIS PROFESSION, WORKED TO SAVE HUMAN LIVES..
I THINK WE'VE LICKED IT! SPANNER AND WYATT ARE OUT OF DANGER! SO ARE THESE PEOPLE!
MAYBE YOU'VE LICKED THE POISON THAT WAS IN THEIR MINDS, TOO, DOC!
RINGO, I'VE BROUGHT APOLOGIES FROM SPANNER AND HIS GANG TO YOU AND YOUR INDIAN FRIEND!
I GUESS DOC WAS RIGHT! THE SICKNESS HAS BEEN LICKED!
THERE'S AN OBJECT LESSON IN THIS, RINGO! SOMETIMES A DOCTOR CAN HEAL MINDS AS WELL AS BODIES! YOU! BOTH HELPED TURN THE TRICK!
WE'LL FEEL A LOT EASIER NEXT TIME WE COME TO ARROWHEAD, DOC! THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!
THE END

SQUATTER'S TRAIL

ONCE every two months, the law took its slow and ceaseless course down Sandbluff Valley, just over the county border from Arizona, stopping at every small town on the route. In the eight weeks or so that had passed since his last appearance on the law-court circuit, old Judge Henry Haverstraw could count on from two to eight cases awaiting him anywhere he stopped. Long ago in the heyday of the valley, when it had been freshly settled, there would have been many more. But good lawmen had turned the valley into a mainly peaceful place since its frontier days.

On a bright sunny Thursday morning, sitting astride his aging mustang, Judge Haverstraw came riding down the trail from Brandville. He had finished sitting on three minor law matters and was heading for the busy little cattle-raising center of Frontier at a point halfway down the valley. He arrived there at about ten o'clock. Frontier had gotten its name from the fact that it was the furthest settled town in that section of the West on the day the Homestead Act had gone into effect.

"Hi! Hiya! Morning, neighbor!" The judge's head bobbed up and down in greeting after greeting as he wended his way down the line of false fronts on Main Street to the office of Sheriff Dan Trayson. He usually managed to have a preliminary chat with the sheriff before taking up the legal cases in the temporary circuit court in the big meeting room of the town hall.

He found Dan Trayson with his feet up on the desk after finishing a tray of breakfast that lay on his desk. Dan quietly leaned toward the wall as Judge Haverstraw entered and rapped three times smartly and loudly on the wall.

"Some special code?" the judge inquired.

"Yup . . . just asking for more coffee from the restaurant next door," Trayson said. "I hate to get up when I don't have to. I'm puttin' on weight, Judge."

"I'm not," the judge remarked wryly. "Too much ridin' up and down this valley. But I love coffee." He sat down in a comfortable chair and took his boots off to rest his feet.

A moment later, a waiter brought in a steaming pot of coffee and some cups on a tray. Dan did the honors. After two cups apiece, the judge lit his pipe and leaned back in his chair.

"What's the docket this time?" he asked.

The sheriff's face immediately became grave. He drew a sheet of paper from a folder on his desk and pointed to a line on it.

"You may think you're gettin' off easy with only this one case this time, but you're not," the sheriff said.

"Why not?" the judge demanded, sitting up suddenly.

"Matter of fact, you're goin' to have to officially disqualify yourself for this one case!"

"What!" the judge roared. "Me disqualify myself? Why?"

"That's right. You know Mel Baskin, don't you?" Trayson asked.

"Sure I do!" The judge replied. "Know him well. He and me were at Bull Run together. On opposite sides, of course, but we both spent four hours together trapped in a shellhole . . . and enemies or not, that brings men together. Why, we couldn't move out of that hole, what with lead wingin' back and forth over our heads. It made partners out of us. Matter of fact, I'm aimin' to stay with Mel overnight, tonight!"

Dan Trayson frowned. "Well," he said, "Chesty Moulter's entered suit to bounce Mel off his squatter spread."

"Bounce him? Why, he can't do that!"

"That's what I mean," the sheriff said patiently. "You're a pal of Mel's. Chesty would be right in askin' you to disqualify."

Haverstraw sank back, gloomily nodding.

"You're right. Poor Mel. If Moulter bounces him, and succeeds in buying out his land, Mel's finished." He stood up suddenly and glanced at his big old gold watch. "There's only one thing to be done. You're the only other law officer in town besides me, so I appoint you judge for the duration of the case."

"And what about you?" the sheriff asked.

There was a grim look on Judge Haverstraw's face.

"Havin' disqualified myself

CONTINUED BEFORE LAST STORY

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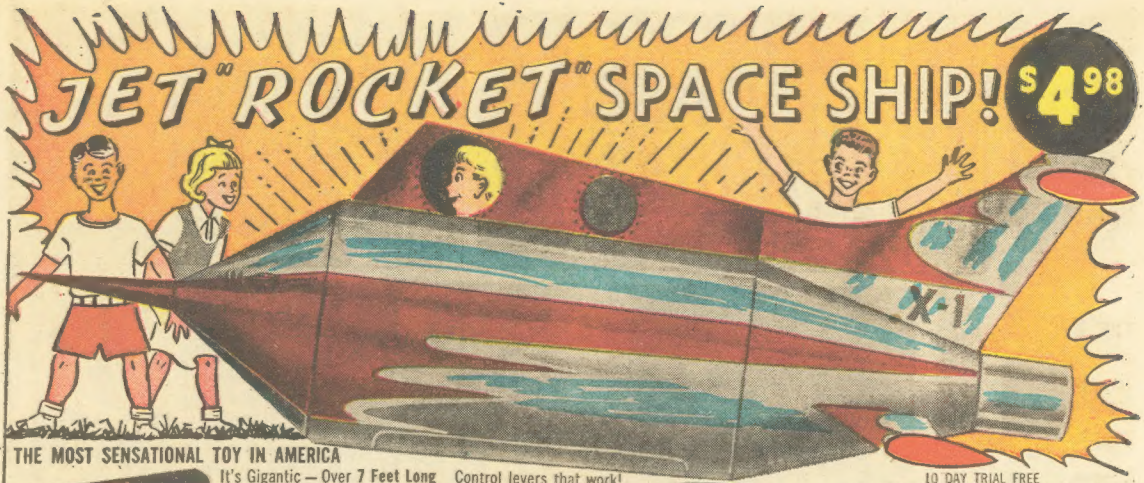

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NAME_____

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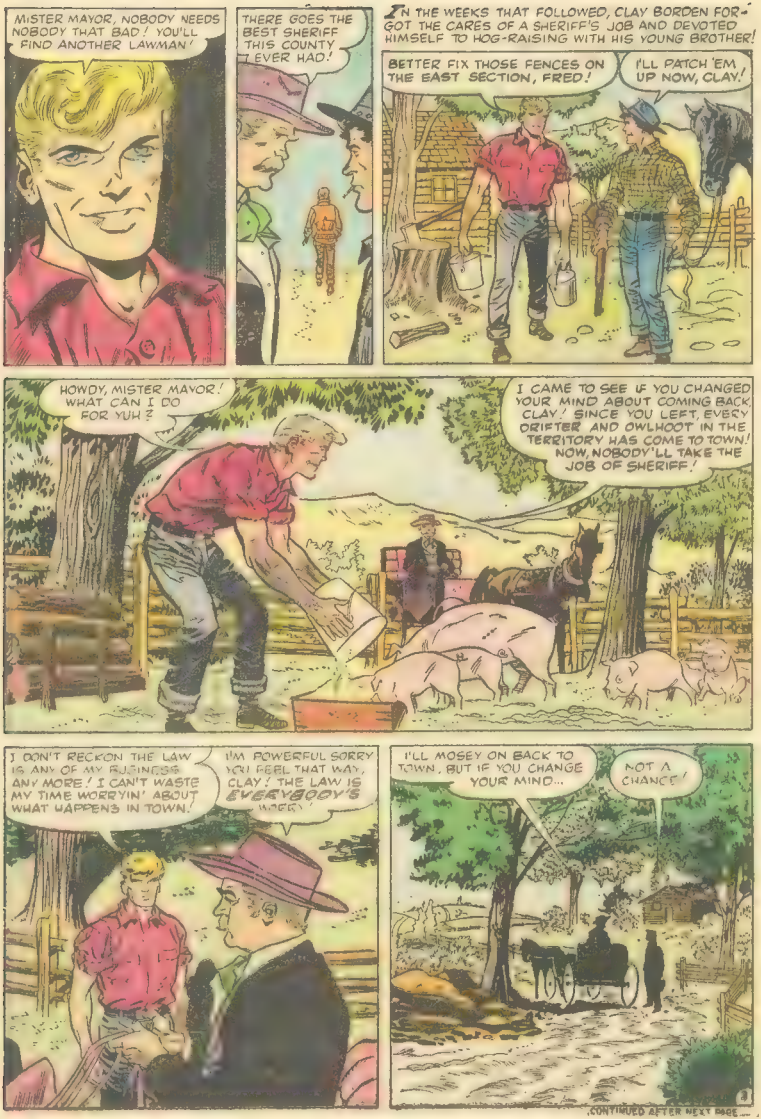
LAWMAN!

IT WAS SUNUP IN BUTTE COUNTY, AND TWO LEAN FIGURES FACED EACH OTHER WITH GUN HANDS POISED NEAR THEIR COLTS! ONE WAS SHERIFF CLAY BORDEN, THE MAN WHO HAD KEPT BUTTE COUNTY A LAW-ABIDING COMMUNITY FOR OVER THREE YEARS... THE OTHER WAS NITCH CRAWFORD, A MAN WITH HATRED IN HIS HEART!

NO ORNERY BADGE-TOTER CAN MAKE NITCH CRAWFORD GIVE UP HIS GUNS! IF YUH WANT 'EM, GET 'EM, SHERIFF! I'M WARNIN' YUH... I'VE NEVER BEEN OUTDRAWED YET!
I'M TELLIN' YUH TO GIVE ME THOSE GUNS, OR DRAW! THE LAW DON'T MAKE EXCEPTIONS IN THIS TOWN!

THIS IS TO MAKE SURE I DON'T CATCH A BULLET FROM YOU, ACCIDENTAL-LIKE!
CRACK
AND THIS IS JUST 'CAUSE YUH DESERVE IT!
CARRY THIS SNIVELING COYOTE TO THE JAIL!
SURE, SHERIFF!
MIGHTY FINE DRAW, SHERIFF!
WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE A MAN OF YOUR STAMP AS SHERIFF OF THIS TOWN, MIGHTY LUCKY!
GLAD YUH MENTIONED IT, MAYOR KENT, BECAUSE I GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YUH!
I'M HEREBY RESIGNING FROM THE JOB OF SHERIFF! I'M GONNA REE-TIRE AND RAISE HOGS UP IN THE HILLS!
YOU CAN'T, CLAY! WE NEED YOU HERE!
2


MISTER MAYOR, NOBODY NEEDS NOBODY THAT BAD! YOU'LL FIND ANOTHER LAWMAN!
THERE GOES THE BEST SHERIFF THIS COUNTY EVER HAD!
IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, CLAY BORDEN FORGOT THE CARES OF A SHERIFF'S JOB AND DEVOTED HIMSELF TO HOG-RAISING WITH HIS YOUNG BROTHER!
BETTER FIX THOSE FENCES ON THE EAST SECTION, FRED!
I'LL PATCH 'EM UP NOW, CLAY!
HOWDY, MISTER MAYOR! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YUH?
I CAME TO SEE IF YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT COMING BACK CLAY! SINCE YOU LEFT, EVERY DRIFTER AND OWLHOOT IN THE TERRITORY HAS COME TO TOWN! NOW, NOBODY'LL TAKE THE JOB OF SHERIFF!
I DON'T RECKON THE LAW IS ANY OF MY BUSINESS ANY MORE! I CAN'T WASTE MY TIME WORRYIN' ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IN TOWN!
I'M POWERFUL SORRY YOU FEEL THAT WAY, CLAY! THE LAW IS EVERYBODY'S MEBBY!
I'LL MOSEY ON BACK TO TOWN, BUT IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND...
NOT A CHANCE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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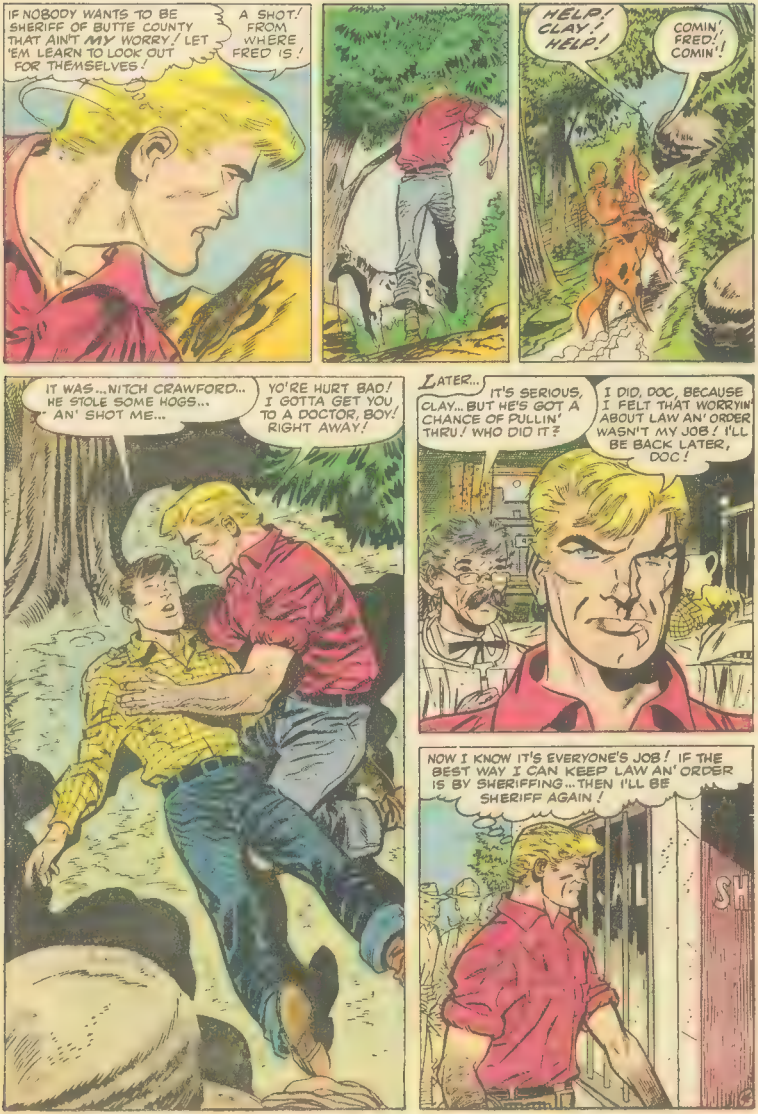
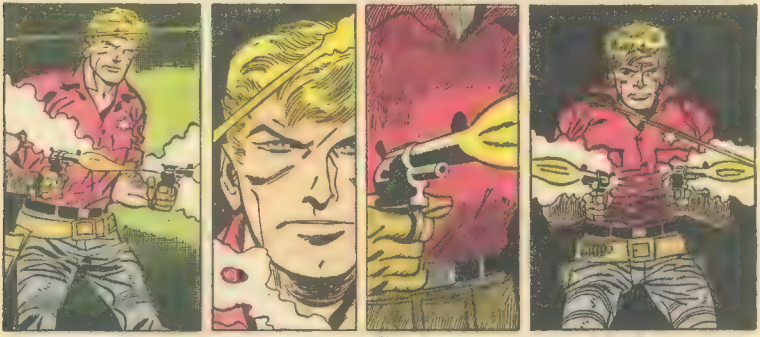
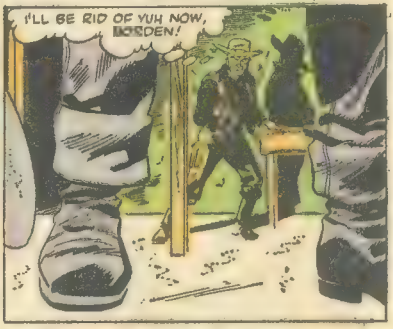

IF NOBODY WANTS TO BE SHERIFF OF BUTTE COUNTY THAT AIN'T MY WORRY! LET 'EM LEARN TO LOOK OUT FOR THEMSELVES!
A SHOT! FROM WHERE FRED IS!
HELP! CLAY! HELP!
COMIN', FRED! COMIN'!
IT WAS...NITCH CRAWFORD... HE STOLE SOME HOGS... AN' SHOT ME...
YO'RE HURT BAD! I GOTTA GET YOU TO A DOCTOR, BOY! RIGHT AWAY!
LATER...
IT'S SERIOUS, CLAY... BUT HE'S GOT A CHANCE OF PULLIN' THRU! WHO DID IT?
I DID, DOC, BECAUSE I FELT THAT WORRYIN' ABOUT LAW AN' ORDER WASN'T MY JOB! I'LL BE BACK LATER, DOC!
NOW I KNOW IT'S EVERYONE'S JOB! IF THE BEST WAY I CAN KEEP LAW AN' ORDER IS BY SHERIFFING...THEN I'LL BE SHERIFF AGAIN!
JAIL
SH

CLAY, I HEARD ABOUT YOUR BROTHER.. I'M VERY SORRY! IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO...
THERE IS, MISTER MAYOR! YOU CAN SWEAR ME IN IF THAT JOB IS STILL OPEN!
FIVE MINUTES LATER...
BE CAREFUL, CLAY... CRAWFORD HAS FOUR GUNSLINGERS IN CAHOOTS WITH HIM! YOU MAY NEED HELP!
I'VE GOT HELP...HANGIN' RIGHT ON MY GUNBELT!
DRINK UP, MEN, IT'S ON NITCH CRAWFORD... I'M PAYIN' FOR EVERYTHING! AND WHY NOT? I PRACTICALLY RUN THIS TOWN SINCE CLAY BORDEN RAN OUT ON IT!
CLAY BORDEN IS THRU RUNNING OUT, CRAWFORD!
BORDEN! NOW DON'T START NOTHIN'... I GOT FOUR OF MUH BOYS WITH ME!
THAT'S GOOD..WE GOT A BIG JAIL IN TOWN... BIG ENOUGH FOR ALL OF YOU!
GET HIM, BOYS!
YOU'RE CALLIN' THE TURN, NITCH!
5

EYES BLAZING AND GUNS BARKING, THE GRIM-LIPPED SHERIFF STOOD HIS GROUND, HIS COLTS SPEWING FORTH THEIR LEADENED JUSTICE AS CRAWFORD'S MEN TRIED IN VAIN TO MEET THE CHALLENGE...

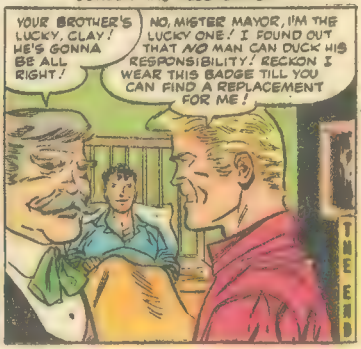


WHILE CLAY WAS WHITTLING DOWN THE ODDS AGAINST HIM, NITCH CRAWFORD PLAYED HIS LAST CARD FROM THE BACK!



AS CLAY BORDEN DUCKED A SHOT FROM ONE OF NITCH'S MEN THE SHOT WENT OVER CLAY'S HEAD AND FOUND NITCH.

LATER THAT DAY, IN THE ROOM WHERE FRED BORDEN WAS RECOVERING...


YOUR BROTHER'S LUCKY, CLAY! HE'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT!
NO, MISTER MAYOR, I'M THE LUCKY ONE! I FOUND OUT THAT NO MAN CAN DUCK HIS RESPONSIBILITY! RECKON I WEAR THIS BADGE TILL YOU CAN FIND A REPLACEMENT FOR ME!
THE END

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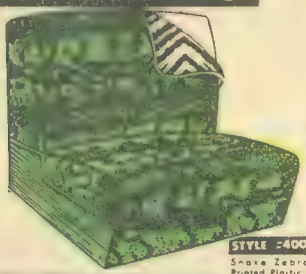
Zebra-Snake Design



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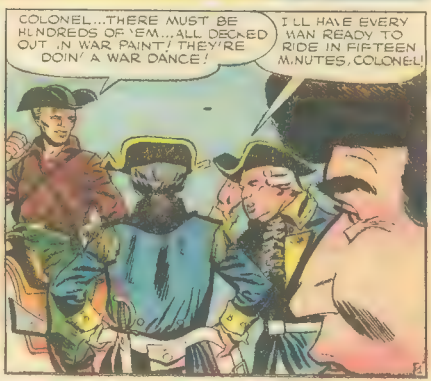
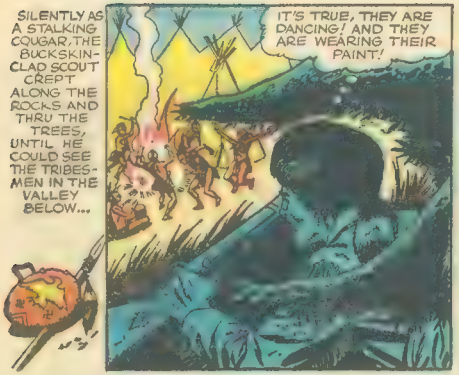
INDIAN ATTACK!

IT ALL STARTED WHEN A SCOUT FROM THE ARMY STOCKADE GALLOPED INTO THE FORT WITH TERROR IN HIS EYES!


COLONEL...THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS OF 'EM...ALL DECKED OUT IN WAR PAINT! THEY'RE DOIN' A WAR DANCE!
I'LL HAVE EVERY MAN READY TO RIDE IN FIFTEEN MINUTES, COLONEL!

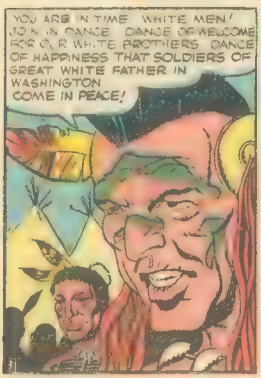
BEGGIN' YER PARDON, COLONEL...WHAT'S ALL THE RUCKUS ABOUT?
ONE OF MY RIDERS JUST SAW THE CHEROKEE DOING A WAR DANCE! THEY'RE PREPARING TO ATTACK US!
THAT'S WHAT WE GET FOR LISTENING TO CIVILIAN SCOUTS LIKE YOU, SAGAMORE! YOU TOLD US THEY WERE FRIENDS!
NOW HOLD ON, MEN! THE CHEROKEE ARE FRIENDLY! IT MUST BE A MISTAKE!
IT WUZ NO MISTAKE, SAGAMORE! I SAW 'EM WITH MY OWN EYES!
MEN, WE'RE ALL NEW HERE! THIS STOCKADE WAS ONLY ERECTED LAST WEEK... BUT ALTHOUGH WE'RE NOT VETERAN INDIAN FIGHTERS LIKE SAGAMORE, I STILL EXPECT EVERY MAN ON THIS POST TO DO HIS DUTY WITHOUT SHRINKING!
ORDER THE ATTACK!
I HOPE YOU GENTS WON'T MIND ME LOOKING INTO THIS AHEAD OF YUH!
SAGAMORE! HOLD ON! STOP!
LET HIM GO, HAWKINS! WE HAVE NO AUTHORITY OVER HIM!
FOR A FULL HOUR THE WILY INDIAN SCOUT RODE INTO THE SURROUNDING CHEROKEE COUNTRY, HIS EYES MISSED NOTHING! EVERY SIGN, EVERY MARK, EVERY BENT TWIG TOLD HIM A STORY...
IT'S TRUE! ALL THE CHEROKEE TRIBES HAVE GATHERED HERE! THE SIGNS ALL POINT TO IT!

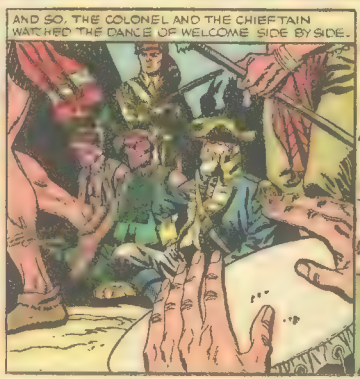

SILENTLY AS A STALKING COUGAR, THE BUCKSKIN-CLAD SCOUT CREPT ALONG THE ROCKS AND THRU THE TREES, UNTIL HE COULD SEE THE TRIBESMEN IN THE VALLEY BELOW...
IT'S TRUE, THEY ARE DANCING! AND THEY ARE WEARING THEIR PAINT!

AND SO, A FEW MINUTES LATER...
COLONEL... I'M GLAD I REACHED YUH BEFORE YUH GOT TO THE CHEROKEE!
MOVE ASIDE, SAGAMORE ...EVERY SECOND COUNTS! WE'VE GOT TO ATTACK THEM BEFORE THEY GATHER IN FULL FORCE!

THAT'S WHAT I GOTTA TELL YUH! IT'LL BE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF YORE LIFE! LEAVE YORE MEN AND COME HERE! NO BLOOD NEED BE SHED!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THE COLONEL SAW SOMETHING IN SAGAMORE'S DEEP, HONEST EYES THAT COULDN'T BE DENIED! HE COMMANDED HIS MEN TO WAIT, AND ALONE ACCOMPANIED THE BRONZED FRONTIERSMAN RIGHT INTO THE HEART OF THE CHEROKEE CAMP!


YOU ARE IN TIME WHITE MEN! JOIN IN DANCE DANCE OF WELCOME FOR O, R WHITE BROTHERS DANCE OF HAPPINESS THAT SOLDIERS OF GREAT WHITE FATHER IN WASHINGTON COME IN PEACE!



...AND A NEEDLESS TRAGEDY WAS PREVENTED BY THAT UNSUNG SCOUT WHO WAS LATER TO GAIN SUCH GREAT FAME AS... *DANIEL BOONE!*

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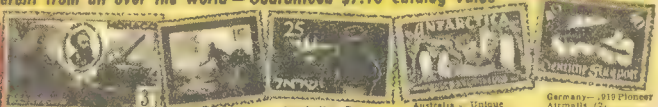

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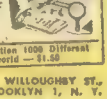

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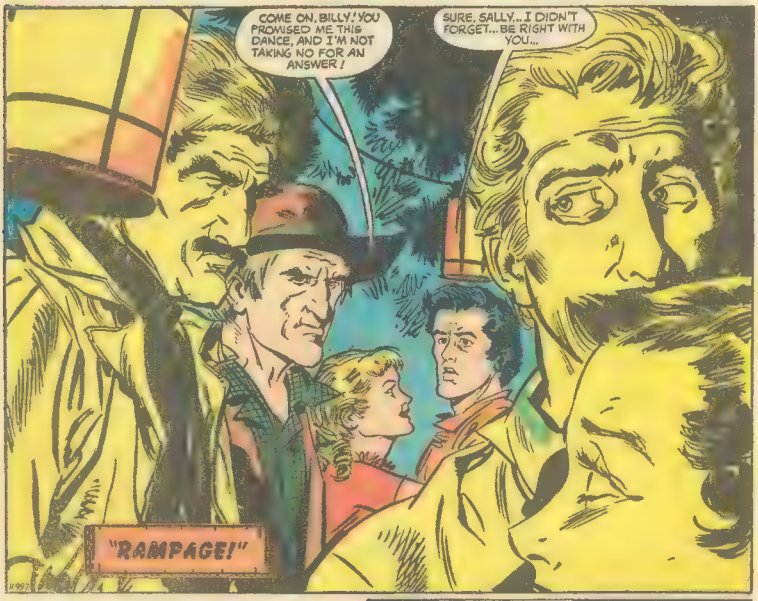
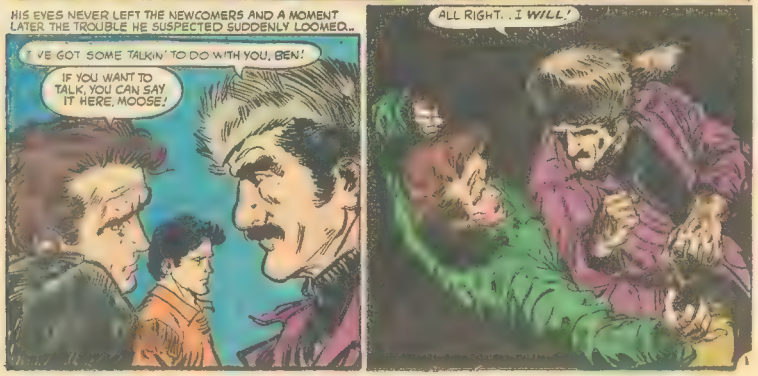
BILLY BUCKSKIN


COME ON, BILLY! YOU PROMISED ME THIS DANCE, AND I'M NOT TAKING NO FOR AN ANSWER!
SURE, SALLY... I DIDN'T FORGET... BE RIGHT WITH YOU...
"RAMPAGE!"


HIS EYES NEVER LEFT THE NEWCOMERS AND A MOMENT LATER THE TROUBLE HE SUSPECTED SUDDENLY LOOMED...
I'VE GOT SOME TALKIN' TO DO WITH YOU, BEN!
IF YOU WANT TO TALK, YOU CAN SAY IT HERE, MOOSE!
ALL RIGHT... I WILL!

I'M FED UP WITH YORE SUPERIOR WAYS, BEN WINTERS! I'M SETTIN' UP NOW..
PLEASE... DON'T!
YOU STAY OUT... HEY!
C'MON, BRAD! LET'S GIVE MOOSE A... OWWW!
YOU'LL DO NOTHIN' OF THE KIND!
AND NEITHER WILL YOU!
THEN, AS THE THREE BAD MEN STRUGGLED TO THEIR FEET...
WHAT THESE CRITTERS NEED IS A LITTLE MORE O' THE SAME MEDICINE!
HOLD ON, SOAPY! I THINK WE'VE MADE OUR POINT CLEAR ENOUGH...
BUT I'LL ADD THIS! STAY AWAY FROM MY MILL, MOOSE! COME SNOOPIN' AROUND AND YOU'LL FIND THE TROUBLE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!
AND WHEN THE TROUBLE-MAKERS SLUNK OFF...
DO YOU THINK HE'LL TAKE YOUR ADVICE, MR. WINTERS?
I HOPE SO, BILLY! I FIRED HIM THIS AFTERNOON FOR CAUSING A LOG-JAM, AND SO HE'S RILED UP!

I'M MIGHTY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR AID, BILLY!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MR. WINTERS! GLAD TO HAVE BEEN AROUND!
EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING, ALONG THE TRAIL...
THAT'S BEN WINTER'S MILL UP YONDER!
IT LOOKS PEACEFUL ENOUGH, SOAPY! MAYBE MOOSE AND HIS CREW HAVE LEARNED THEIR LESSON!
SUDDENLY, WITH SHATTERING FORCE...
GUNFIRE... COMING FROM THE RIVER!
C'MON!
WHEN THEY REACHED THE RIVER BED BELOW...
IT'S BEN WINTERS! HE'S BEEN HURT! WHO DID IT, BEN?
AMBUSH... MOOSE AN' HIS MEN! I WAS WORKING THE LOG-JAM LOSE... THEN THEY STARTED SHOOTIN...
THEY'RE OUT TO WRECK THE MILL! DO SOMETHIN'...
HERE THEY COME, BILL! WHAT NOW?
YOU TAKE CARE OF BEN, AND TRY HOLDING THEM OFF! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
FOLLOW ME BOYS! WE'RE GONNA SETTLE WITH WINTERS! WE'RE GONNA PULL THAT PLACE OF HIS DOWN!

MEANWHILE, HIGH ABOVE THEM, BILLY WORKED HIS WAY UP THE TREACHEROUS SUPPORTS THAT HELD THE CHUTE...
ONLY A LITTLE MORE TO GO... GOT TO MAKE IT...
NOW!
SECONDS LATER A RUMBLING FILLED THE AIR, WHICH MOUNTED STEADILY LIKE THE ROAR OF THUNDERING CANNONS.
LOOK!
SOMEONE'S OPENED THE LOG CHUTE!
WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!
AND IN THE SWIRLING WATERS OF THE SWOLLEN STREAM
HELP, MOOSE... GIMME A HAND...
STAY CLEAR! LOOK AFTER YORE OWN HIDE!
THEY C'N SHIFT FOR THEMSELVES! I'M GETTIN' OUTA HERE... PRONTO!

ONCE I CLEAR THE BEND, I'LL MAKE FOR SHORE AN' PARTS UNKNOWN! I'M FED UP WITH THIS TERRITORY ANYWAY!
BUT A SECOND LATER, MOOSE'S EYES NARROWED IN SUDDEN ANGER...
SO THAT'S IT! I SHOULDA FIGGERED HIM ALL ALONG!
I'LL SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!
HOW'S THIS FER... HUH?
I'M COMING ABOARD ...LIKE SO!
HELP!
AND MINUTES LATER...
YOU'VE GOT THE IDEA, MOOSE! JUST KEEP PADDLING FOR SHORE... AND NO TRICKS!
I'M, MIGHTY GRATEFUL, BILLY! WITH MY MILL SAFE, I RECKON MY TROUBLES ARE OVER!
I'M SURE GLAD THEY ARE, AND WITH MOOSE AND HIS MEN FACING TRIAL... I'D SAY THEIR TROUBLES ARE JUST BEGINNING!
THE END

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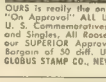

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...CONTINUED

as judge, that leaves me open to take the case as Mel's counsel!"

At one o'clock, court convened in the town hall. With about a dozen townsfolk present, Judge Haverstraw opened the court, then officially disqualified himself on the grounds of being a close friend of Mel Baskin's and, finally, stepped down from the bench.

Sheriff Dan Trayson immediately took his place.

Bulky Chesty Moulter smiled smoothly as he advanced to the bar, Dan Trayson having recognized him in law.

"Right glad to see everything bein' conducted so lawful-like!" He turned toward Mel Baskin who, a bit forlorn, sat to one side beside Haverstraw. Moulter's voice became even more gushing. "Now I don't want to deprive Mel of any decent amount for his land. But the point is he's just a squatter, and he don't own it. I'm offerin' him some cash to get off it and sell me his cattle . . . and I think I'm generous, doin' it!"

Haverstraw rose. "You mean Mel has no deed to the land, don't you?" he asked. And, when Moulter nodded, continued, "I suppose there's no doubt you have a deed to *your* land, Mr. Moulter?"

"I sure have!" Chesty Moulter said heatedly. "Had it ten years, Haverstraw! But . . ." Abruptly his manner became suspicious. "Now what are you tryin' to get at?"

"One or two things," the judge said. "Right now I want to know what you want that land for?"

"I need it," Moulter said flatly. "I need it because I'm not producin' enough cattle for the market to meet my commitments. There's nothin' wrong with that, is there?"

"No," Haverstraw said. "But there's no reason why you have to buy Mel Baskin's land, when you could purchase land on the north side of the valley. Nobody's usin' it."

"But the land Mel's squattin' on is some of the best land in the valley!" Chesty exploded.

"Yes, it's good land," Mel Baskin said in a quavering voice. Then his eyes fell. "I reckon Chesty's right. He's got a deed to his land and I have no deed to mine." He laid a trembling hand on Haverstraw's arm. "Maybe, Judge, I'd better take Chesty's offer, small as it is."

"You've got squatter's rights, which is all Moulter has!" Judge Haverstraw said fiercely.

"Whaaaat!" Moulter blurted. "I've got a deed!"

"The deed's invalid," Haverstraw said, smiling grimly. "I saw the records an hour ago at the town clerk's office. This land was all originally Homestead land. And the man who sold it to you was just a squatter himself. He never did take out homestead rights with the government. So he sold you squatter land *without the right* to sell it. You can legalize your deed by taking out homestead rights . . . but so can Mel. And you *can't* force him to sell!"

THE END J-378

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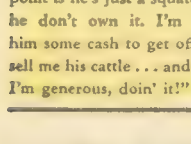

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NAME_____

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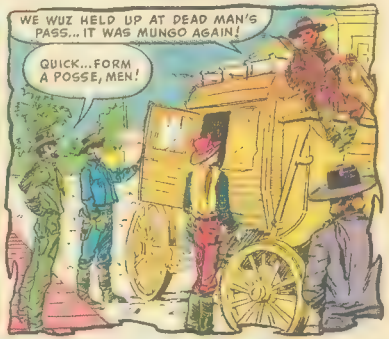
DESPERADO

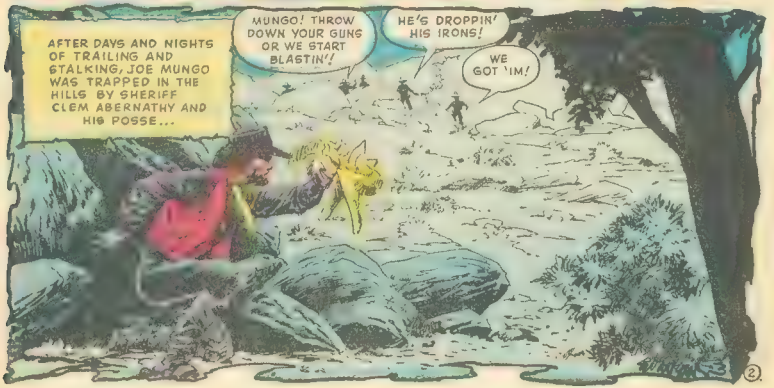
ON THE 14th DAY OF OCTOBER, IN THE SMALL FRONTIER TOWN OF FARGO FALLS, A FEELING OF DANGER AND MENACE HUNG HEAVY OVER THE COOL AUTUMN AIR! MEN WORE THEIR GUNS LOW AND THE SHERIFF AND HIS DEPUTIES PATROLLED THE STREET, GRIM-LIPPED AND SILENT!

THEY SAY MUNGO'S WANTED FOR ALMOST EVERY CRIME IN THE BOOK!
HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE FASTEST DRAW THIS SIDE OF THE RIO GRANDE!
WONDER WHY HE LET FOLKS KNOW HE WAS COMING TO FARGO FALLS?

THE DESPERADO HAD BEGUN HIS SORDID CAREER AS A COWPOKE IN ARIZONA WHEN HE RAN OFF WITH HIS BOSS'S PAYROLL...

IN CARSON CITY, HE TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO STAGECOACHES...




AFTER DAYS AND NIGHTS OF TRAILING AND STALKING, JOE MUNGO WAS TRAPPED IN THE HILLS BY SHERIFF CLEM ABERNATHY AND HIS POSSE...
MUNGO! THROW DOWN YOUR GUNS OR WE START BLASTIN'!
HE'S DROPPIN' HIS IRONS!
WE GOT 'IM!

JOE MUNGO WAS TAKEN TO THE LOCAL JAIL TO AWAIT THE FEDERAL MARSHAL ... BUT THE SECOND NIGHT AT THE JAIL ...

SETTING FIRE TO HIS CELL GAVE MUNGO THE OPPORTUNITY TO OVERPOWER THE GUARD ..

FROM THEN ON, THE NAME OF JOE MUNGO SPREAD LIKE A SCOURGE OVER THE WEST! HE WAS WANTED FOR RUSTLING IN ARIZONA ...

... ATTEMPTED BANK ROBBERY IN MONTANA ...

IT'S A GOOD THING WE HAD THE BANK EQUIPPED WITH THESE NEW-FANGLED, JIMMY-PROOF VAULTS!
BUT LOOK... MUNGO IS ESCAPING!
ONLY FOR A WHILE... THEY'LL CATCH HIM SOONER OR LATER!
BANK

AND NOW JOE MUNGO, THE DESPERADO, WAS HEADED FOR FARGO FALLS...EVERY GUN IN TOWN WAS WAITING...THE MEN DETERMINED THAT JOE MUNGO WOULD NOT COUNT FARGO FALLS AS ANOTHER EPISODE IN HIS SORDID CAREER...
I CAN'T FIGGER THIS HOMBRE MUNGO OUT...
WHY NOT, JEB?
WHAT DOES HE GAIN? HE CAN'T SPEND THE MONEY HE STEALS BECAUSE HE CAN'T SHOW HIS FACE ANYWHERE!
MAYBE IT MAKES HIM HAPPY... MAYBE IT'S AN ADVENTURE TO HIM!
HERE HE COMES!
WAIT... HE'S WAVING A WHITE FLAG!
I SURRENDER! I-I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE! I WANNA PAY FOR MY CRIMES... I WANNA REST! IT... IT AIN'T FITTIN' FOR A HUMAN BEING TO LIVE LIKE AN ANIMAL SO LONG... IT JUST AIN'T FITTIN'! I GOTTA REST...EVERY MAN DESERVES A CHANCE TO REST!
MAKES HIM HAPPY, EH? SO IT'S AN ADVENTURE TO HIM, EH?
ALL RIGHT, I RECKON I WAS WRONG! I RECKON HE WUZ JUST A POOR HOMBRE WHO WUZ SICK AND NOW HE'S GETTIN' WELL... IT'S TOO BAD HE'S GETTIN' WELL TOO LATE!
THE END

DO YOU WANT SPENDING MONEY?

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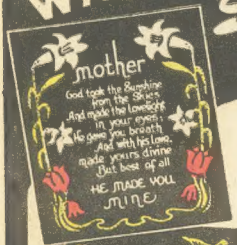

CHILD'S PRAYER
Now I Lay me down To Sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep,
If I should Die before I Wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take

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Just write and ask us to send you 40 of these beautiful glittering mottoes which the public likes so well. Sell them easily and quickly to your friends and neighbors for only 35¢ each. At the end of 14 days send back, if you wish, all mottoes you have not sold, and send us only 25¢ for each you have sold. You keep all the rest of the money.

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REMEMBER: No money is needed in advance. You take no risks. You can return all the mottoes you do not sell. You do not pay shipping costs or split your commission. You keep all the profit on each sale.

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Awhile ago I tried for one of these scholarships. I didn't think my sketch could win, but it did! I am learning a lot from the Art Course and am already working full time as an artist.

Della M. Scott
April 21, 1955

Draw Me...

Try For A Free 2-Year Art Scholarship Worth $375.00

Do you like to doodle? Do you make little sketches whenever you have a pencil in your hand? Then you may have talent worth training. Enter this drawing contest! You may win two years of free training for a successful career in advertising art, illustrating or cartooning.

Many well-paid artists today have studied with this art school. It's the world's largest home study art school, founded 40 years ago. It's a member of the National Home Study Council, Washington, D.C.

You're trained by professional artists. You get individual coaching, personal guidance, step-by-step instruction.

As prize winner, you also receive a professional drawing outfit, and a series of valuable art textbooks. Make your sketch of the "Draw Me" girl today!

Draw this girl's head 5 inches high. Use pencil only. All drawings must be received by April 30, 1956. None returned. Winner notified. Amateurs only. Our students not eligible.

USE 1 COUPON THEN PASS THIS PAGE ON TO A FRIEND!

3. **ART INSTRUCTION, INC.,** Studio 3946-3
500 South 4th St., Minneapolis 15, Minn.
Please enter my attached drawing in your contest.
(PLEASE PRINT)

Name_____ AGE_____
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Please enter my attached drawing in your contest.
(PLEASE PRINT)

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County_____ State_____
Occupation_____ Phone_____

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Please enter my attached drawing in your contest.
(PLEASE PRINT)

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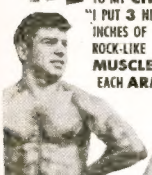
TONY PASCARELLA

BEFORE "Here's me—a bag-of-bones weakling before I mailed the coupon."

AFTER

"I ADDED 3 NEW INCHES TO MY CHEST."

"I PUT 3 NEW INCHES OF ROCK-LIKE MUSCLE ON EACH ARM!



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NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are. I'll make you OVER by the SAME secret method I turned myself from a wreck to the strongest of the strong. I can do for you what I do each year for MANY THOUSANDS of weaklings like Tony was.

DEVELOP YOUR 520 MIGHTY MUSCLES

Gain or Lose Pounds, INCHES FAST!

YES! You'll ADD INCHES of shapely MUSCLES to your skinny ARMS and CHEST . . . see your fat melt away to a HARD, SOLID body in fighting trim. Your BACK and SHOULDERS broadened. From head to heels you'll gain in LOOKS, SIZE, STAMINA, SEX APPEAL . . . you'll be "top kick" in SPORTS, BUSINESS, in anything you tackle!

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